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## ZOOLOGY.

ARE BEES INJURIOUS TO FRUIT?—Dr. H. A. Hagen, late of Königsburg, Prussia, who is an eminent entomologist, and who has paid special attention to the literature of Bees and Bee-keeping, thus writes us regarding this question:—

“I have never known, and find nothing in the literature now at hand to prove that Bees are obnoxious to fruits and to fields. Bees can never use the fields of *red* clover; the corolla is too long for their proboscis. But they are very frequently seen in the fields of white clover, and I have heard that these fields are obnoxious to bees, if shortly before rain has fallen.”

APIPHOBIA.—The people of Wenham have voted, by a two-thirds majority, that no bees shall be kept in the town—the vote being directed against an extensive bee-keeper whose stock has been troublesome. Some say the action of the town is of “doubtful constitutionality.”—*Boston Journal*.

The good people of Wenham have judged that bee-keeping and fruit-raising are incompatible, and that bees are a nuisance!! We also notice that the bee-keeper “whose stock has been troublesome” advertises in the *Salem Gazette*, his farm for sale, consisting of “three-quarters of an acre of tillage land, containing from seventy-five to one hundred pear trees, besides apple trees. The pear trees, 1867, bore thirty bushels of choice standard fruit.” (*Memorandum*.—The bee-keeper himself seems, from the above quotations, to have found *both* fruit-raising and bee-keeping a source of profit!!)

Have we gone back to the Dark Ages, the age of belief in Dragons, “Gorgons and Chimæras dire,” Krakens, Unicorns, and Witches and Witchcraft? Are these poor bees to be voted worse than fiends and dragons, about which there is always a sort of tragic interest, and to be adjudged only as “common nuisances,” to be abated and extinguished by the ballots of Wenham’s “free and independent voters?” This disease, *Apiphobia*, as we may call it, has afflicted mankind before. Among some of its attendant symptoms are intense *bigotry* (sometimes leading to undue persecution);\* an unreasoning credulity, so that all sorts of horrible stories regarding these entomological monsters are eagerly believed, and the unfortunate sufferer from these *bee-horrors* finally comes to look at every object with hymenopterous eyes. Musquitoes, for example, look as large as bees, and sting as only a super-infuriated Wenham bee can sting. It has raged fiercely at times in Germany, from the year 1530 up to the year 1800, and now, alas! has broken out among the unfortunate inhabitants of Wenham, Massachusetts, U. S. A. It would be immodest in us to suggest as a preventive against this for-

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\* We learn that the selectmen of Wenham have ordered the bee-keeper to abate the “nuisance,” and take his bees out of town. Can it be possible! and this in enlightened Massachusetts!

midable disease, the daily reading of the *NATURALIST*, but we can heartily recommend the perusal of the *American Bee Journal*, which is devoted to the habits and natural history of the Honey Bee.

A little knowledge of Natural History is really the only antidote yet discovered against this fell disease. We quote from the *American Bee Journal* for March, the Editor's remarks on the subject of

**BEES AND FRUIT BLOSSOMS.**—A silly prejudice against bees is entertained by some fruit-growers, based on the notion that the crops of fruit are injuriously affected, both in quality and quantity, by the visits of bees during the blossoming period. A more unfounded notion, or one deriving less support from observation and science, can scarcely be conceived. Yet it regularly looms up once or twice in a century, and creates as much alarm and consternation among the wisacres, as the appearance of a comet used to do in by-gone days.

Repeated instances of the resuscitation of this prejudice are presented in the history of bee-culture in Germany, especially in the period between 1530 and 1800. On some of these occasions it was so widely prevalent and so rabid in its demonstrations, as to constrain the almost total abandonment of bee-culture in districts where fruit-raising bore sway. To the aid of this came the substitution of cider and beer for the ancient mead or metheglin, as the popular beverage; and amid such opposition and discouragement, bee-culture rapidly sunk to be of very subordinate interest, except in some favorable localities.

In 1774, Count Anthony of Torrings-Seefeld, in Bavaria, President of the Academy of Science at Munich, striving to re-introduce bee-culture on his patrimonial estate, found in this generally prevalent prejudice the chief obstacle to success. To overcome it, he labored assiduously to show that bees, far from being injurious, were directly beneficial in the fructification of blossoms—causing the fruit *to set*, by conveying the fertilizing pollen from tree to tree and from flower to flower. He proved moreover, by official family records, that a century earlier, when bees were kept by every tenant on the estate, fruit was abundant; whereas then, when only seven kept bees, and none of these had more than three colonies, fruit was scarcer than ever among his tenantry.

At the Apian General Convention, held at Stuttgart, in Wirtemberg, in September, 1858, the subject of honey-yielding crops being under discussion, the celebrated pomologist, Professor Lucas, one of the directors of the Hohenheim Institute, alluding to the prejudice, went on to say,—"Of more importance, however, is an improved management of our fruit-trees. Here the interests of the horticulturist and the bee-keeper combine and run parallel. A judicious pruning of our fruit-trees will cause them to blossom more freely and yield honey more plentifully. I would urge attention to this on those particularly who are both fruit-growers and bee-keepers. A careful and observant bee-keeper at Potsdam writes to me that *his trees yield decidedly larger crops since he has established an apiary in his orchard, and the annual product is now more certain and regular than before*, though his trees had always received due attention."

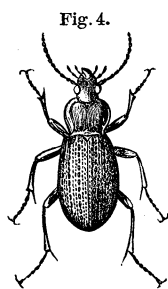
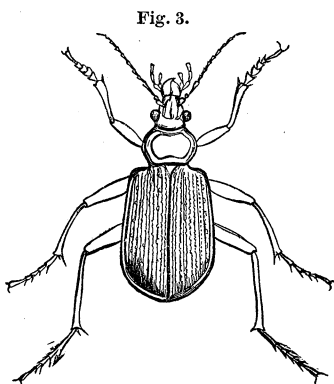
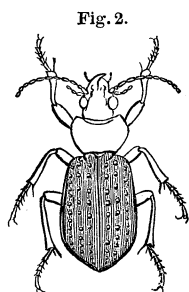
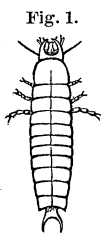
Some years ago a wealthy lady in Germany established a green-house at considerable cost, and stocked it with a great variety of choice native and exotic fruit-trees—expecting in due time to have remunerating crops. Time passed, and annually there was a superabundance of blossoms, with only very little fruit. Various plans were devised and adopted to bring the trees into bearing, but without success, till it was suggested that the blossoms needed fertilization, and that by means of bees the needed work could be effected. A hive of busy honey-gatherers was introduced next season; the remedy was effectual—there was no longer any difficulty in producing crops there. The bees distributed the pollen, and the *setting* of the fruit followed naturally.

**THE MOTTLED OWL.**—I think Mr. Samuels has misunderstood my remarks on the nests of owls. What I intended to state was that the *Mottled Owl* never built a nest to my personal knowledge, and I did not state that the *Mottled Owl* occupied the "abandoned nest of a crow or hawk," but I did state that *other species* of owls (of course meaning our local species), when they did occupy a nest at all, inhabited the abandoned nest of a crow or hawk, which they had partially repaired.—AUGUSTUS FOWLER.

AN ALBINO HUMMING-BIRD. — During the last summer a white Humming-bird visited many times a stand of plants on my piazza. I had several opportunities of observing it closely. It *seemed* a trifle larger than the Ruby-throat. The neck and head were of a glossy gold-color. Eyes large, black, and brilliant. After dipping its bill into all the fuschias, it did what I have never seen other Humming-birds do, alighted on a dwarf apple-tree within a few feet of me, and ate the aphides, or plant-lice, just as the sparrows and golden-wrens do. After a hearty meal of insects, it dressed its feathers, spread its wings one by one, and thrust out a very long tongue. — L. A. MILLINGTON.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL CALENDAR.

In April the injurious insects in the Northern States have scarcely begun their work of destruction, as the buds do not unfold before the first of May. We give an account, however, of some of the *beneficial* insects which are now to be found in grass-lands and in gardens. The farmer should know his true insect friends as well as his insect foes. We introduce to our readers a large family of ground-beetles (*Carabidæ*, from *Carabus*, the name of the typical genus) which prey on those insects largely injurious to crops. A study of the figures will familiarize our readers with the principal forms. They are dark-colored, brown or black, with metallic hues, and are seen in spring, and throughout the summer, running in grass, or lurking under stones and sticks in



damp places, whence they sally forth to hunt by night, when many vegetable-eating insects are most active.

The larvæ are found in much the same situations as the mature beetles. They are elongate, oblong, and rather broad, the terminal ring of the